



STATE OF INDIANA
INDIANA STATE EXCISE POLICE

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For Immediate Release

Excise Officers Arrest Store Manager on Several Drug, Gun Charges

GARY, Ind. (Jan. 16) – Indiana State Excise Police officers arrested a convenience store manager on several gun and drug charges yesterday.

At 1:00 p.m., excise officers conducting a tobacco inspection at One Stop Grocery Store, 719 W. 45th Avenue, in Gary, found evidence of several weapons and drug violations.

As a result of their investigation, excise officers arrested the store's manager, Mohamad Ali, 43, of Gary, on preliminary charges of Possession of a Handgun with Obliterated Serial Number (Class C felony), Maintaining a Common Nuisance (Class D felony), Possession of Marijuana over 30 grams (Class D felony) and Possession of Paraphernalia (Class A misdemeanor).

Excise officers seized a Ruger 9 mm handgun, from which the serial number had been removed. It was one of four guns discovered inside the business.

Officers also cited One Stop Grocery Store for violating Indiana's Smoke-Free Air Law by allowing smoking inside the business.

"Often, state excise police officers discover serious criminal violations while performing their regulatory duties," Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. "Their efforts reinforce the importance of how regulating alcohol, tobacco and Type II gaming ensures public safety."

Anyone with information concerning violations of Indiana's alcohol or tobacco laws should contact the State Excise Police at 574-264-9480.

Excise officers were assisted by the Gary Police Department during their investigation.

As the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, the primary mission of the Indiana State Excise Police is to promote public safety by enforcing Indiana's Alcoholic Beverage Code. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related laws.

Criminal Charges: All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Administrative Charges: All respondents are to be presumed not liable until, and unless, the plaintiff can prove by preponderance of the evidence the respondent's liability in an administrative hearing.